

# Space Domain Awareness for Manned GEO Servicing

---

Major Travis Blake  
Program Manager – Tactical Technology Office

Maui, HI  
17 September 2010



<b>Report Documentation Page</b>			<i>Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188</i>	
<p>Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.</p>				
1. REPORT DATE <b>SEP 2010</b>	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2010 to 00-00-2010</b>		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Space Domain Awareness for Manned GEO Servicing</b>			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
			5e. TASK NUMBER	
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA),Tactical Technology Office,3701 North Fairfax Drive,Arlington,VA,22203</b>			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>2010 Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies Conference, 14-17 Sep, Maui, HI.</b>				
14. ABSTRACT				
15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>17</b>
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>		



**Reach, regain and retain  
the tactical advantage of *distance*  
through awareness, access, adaptability and  
affect**

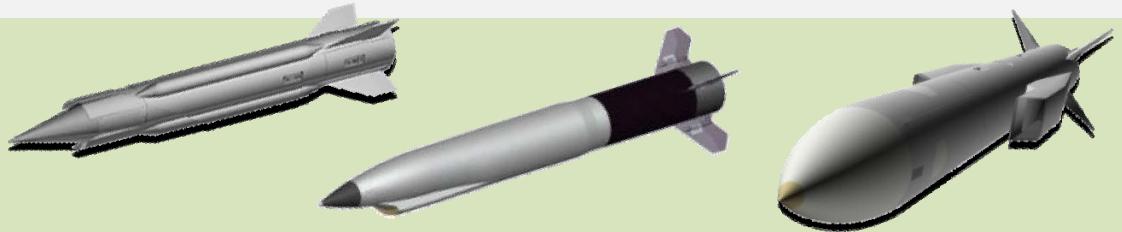


# Thrust Areas

Transforming the future of warfighting by pursuing high-risk, high-payoff tactical technology and development of rapid, mobile and responsive combat capability for advanced weapons, platforms and space systems

## Advanced Weapon Systems

- Weapons Delivery
- Precision Effects
- Kinetic / Non-Kinetic Effects



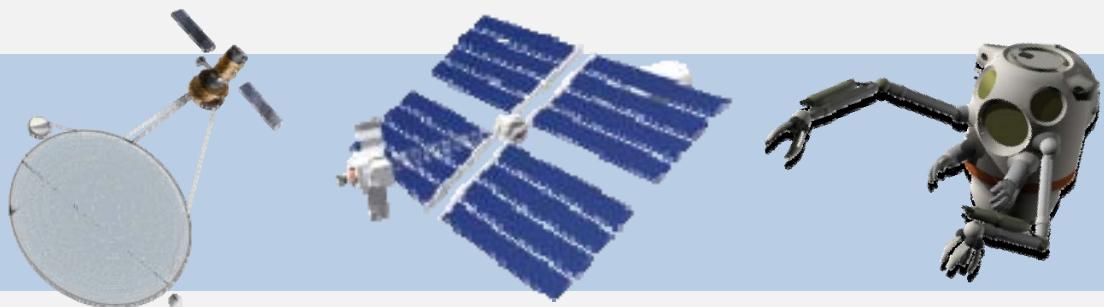
## Advanced Platforms

- Unmanned Systems
- X-Planes
- Manned Platforms



## Advanced Space Systems

- Stability
- Assured Access
- Resilience





# TTO Space Portfolio

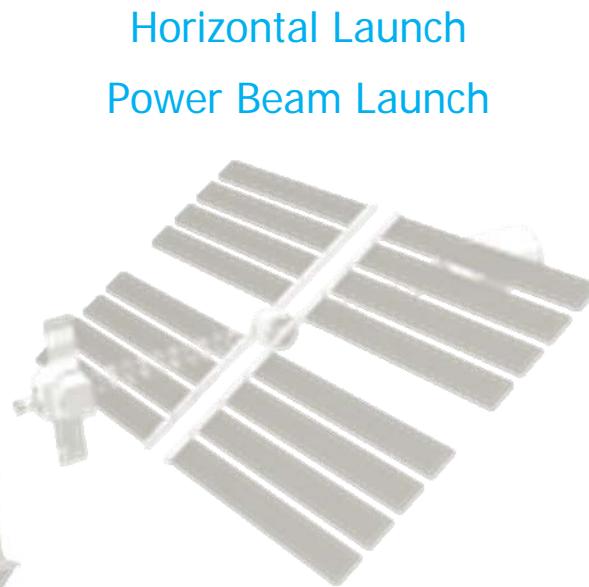
## Stability

Detect, warn, characterize  
Debris mitigation



## Assured Access

Reliable affordable access  
robust, competitive domestic industries



## Resilience

Human, robotic initiatives  
Support against disruption, degradation  
and destruction

## Manned Geo Servicing

System F6



Indicates a joint NASA effort

## NASA Jump-Starts Space Technology Program

By Debra Werner  
Space News Staff Writer  
posted: 27 August 2010  
10:50 am ET

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Senior NASA officials are so eager to jump-start advanced technology efforts that they sought and won congressional approval to devote \$36.5 million in 2010 funding to eight high-priority research projects.

Those projects, which include joint efforts with the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to investigate horizontal launch capabilities, in-orbit satellite servicing and power-beam propulsion, are set to begin immediately, said Robert Braun, [NASA chief technologist](#).

The majority of the space agency's [new technology initiatives](#) are set to begin in 2011 with the creation of the Space Technology Program. The administration of U.S. President Barack Obama included a request for \$572 million to establish the Space Technology Program in NASA's 2011 budget. The program combines many of the space agency's existing research and technology initiatives, such as the Innovative Partnerships Program, with a set of new programs designed to shepherd advanced technology from initial concept studies to flight testing, Braun said Aug. 10 during a visit to the NASA Ames Research Center here.

Work to be conducted in 2010 includes systems analysis, technology assessment and ground-based testing, Braun said. Continuation of these activities in 2011 will depend on the results of the work completed in 2010 and congressional deliberations, he added.

Congressional deliberations also will determine the overall funding level for the [Space Technology Program](#). While the House appropriations subcommittee supported the president's plan to provide \$572 million for the Space Technology Program, the Senate appropriations committee only recommended \$240 million for the program.

That lower budget level would make it difficult to launch many of the new initiatives designed to bolster space research and technology, Braun said, because funding for several elements of the Space Technology Program that were already in existence will cost approximately \$240 million in 2011.

"The thing to realize about the Space Technology Program is that it's not an entirely new program," Braun said. "It includes the Innovative Partnership Programs that were in existence this year and in previous years, Small Business Innovative Research, Small Business Technology Transfer, Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research [and] Centennial Challenges. All these carry forward in 2011 at a budget approaching \$240 million."

In addition, he said, new rules that require the space agency to fully account for the cost of its work force will add roughly \$60 million to the existing program. "So there's \$300 million of content associated with the old programs and the NASA work force in 2011," Braun said. "Unfortunately, if the Space Technology Program is funded at a lower dollar value, a lot of the new program content won't be included. And it is the new programs that folks in industry, academia and the NASA center are very excited about."

The Space Technology Program proposed includes three components: Early Stage Innovation, Game Changing Technology and Cross Cutting Capability Demonstration. The initiative is designed to ensure that sophisticated technology makes its way from the drawing board to NASA missions.

"Frankly, in my history with NASA, this continuous set of technology programs has been missing," Braun said. "There have been past programs focused on innovative ideas. And there have been programs where NASA tried to flight-qualify [space system technologies](#). But I can't remember a time when NASA had a continuous set of technology development programs that would allow us, over time, to take an idea all the way from concept to flight."

As NASA pursues those technology initiatives, the agency is likely to work more closely than ever before with DARPA, Braun said.

Braun and David Neyland, director of DARPA's Tactical Technology Office, identified three areas where "collaborative technology development between [NASA](#) and [DARPA](#) would have mutual payoffs," according to DARPA spokesman Eric Mazzacane.

Those three research topics include studies of horizontal launch capabilities, servicing of satellites in geosynchronous orbit and power-beam propulsion. "DARPA believes the three studies in which it is engaging with NASA are the first of many to come," Mazzacane wrote in an Aug. 18 e-mail.

For the satellite servicing study, the two agencies will explore ways people could work jointly with robots to maintain and repair satellites, Braun said. The U.S. Department of Defense has "tens of satellites in near-geosynchronous orbit that are approaching the end of their lifecycles," according to Mazzacane. "Identifying a successful approach to extend those lifecycles would save billions of dollars."

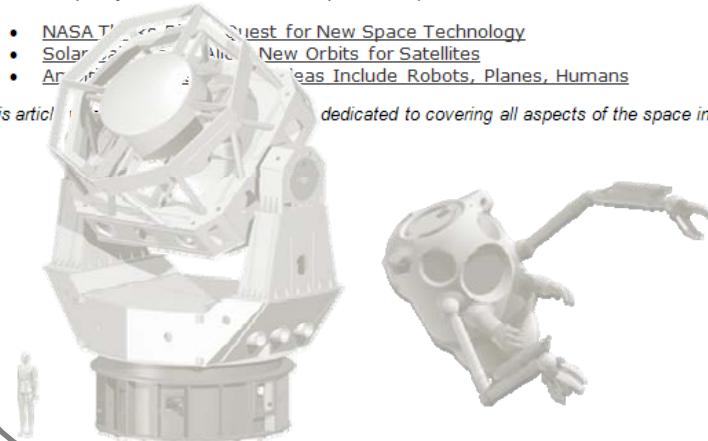
For NASA, this type of research has important implications for exploration missions. "Geosynchronous orbit is interesting for NASA because it's above the Van Allen radiation belts," Braun said. "So from a human physiology perspective, it's a lot like the Moon."

In addition, Braun said, the amount of change in velocity needed to get from low Earth orbit to geosynchronous orbit is approximately the same amount needed to get from low Earth orbit to the Moon. "So any vehicle we build to take humans to geosynchronous orbit would be a good start, and maybe even enough, to do an eventual lunar mission," Braun said.

Apart from NASA's collaboration with DARPA, one new technology initiative set to begin immediately involves studies of inflatable aerodynamic decelerators. These decelerators would be designed to be packed compactly for launch and, once in space, to expand.

- [NASA Tries to Kick Off New Space Technology Program](#)
- [Solar Electric Propulsion May Open New Orbits for Satellites](#)
- [Aerodynamic Decelerators for Space Exploration: Areas Include Robots, Planes, Humans](#)

This article was written by Debra Werner for Space.com, a [USA Today](#) network partner dedicated to covering all aspects of the space industry.





# MANNED SERVICING OF GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITES

Rendezvous, Refuel,  
Refurbish, Repair, Reposition  
(R5)

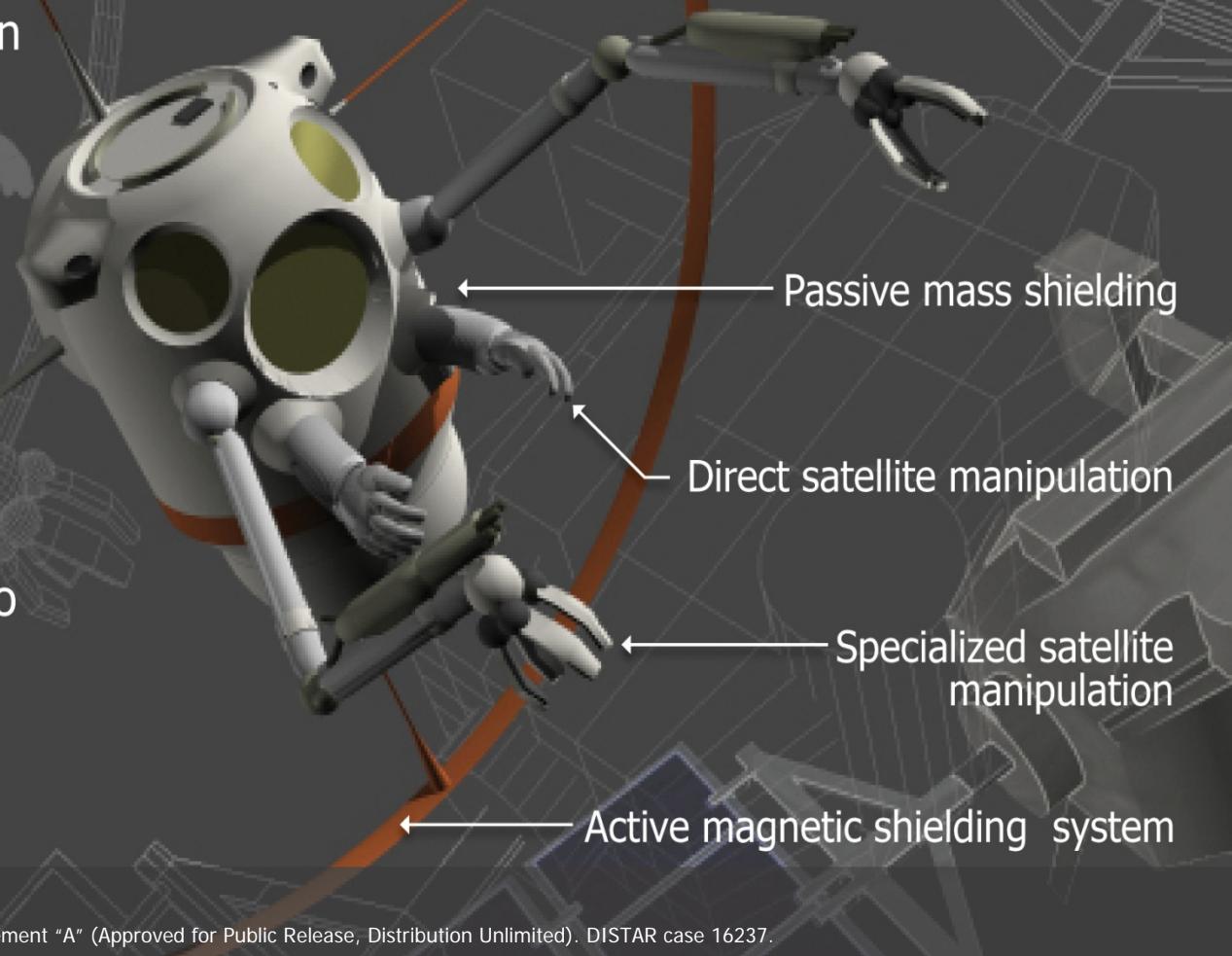
Repair / extend service life  
of high value satellites

Upgrade / modify missions  
Create new capabilities /  
networks

Provide credible evolution to  
autonomous servicing

Defer / avoid new satellite  
launch costs

## Enabling Technologies



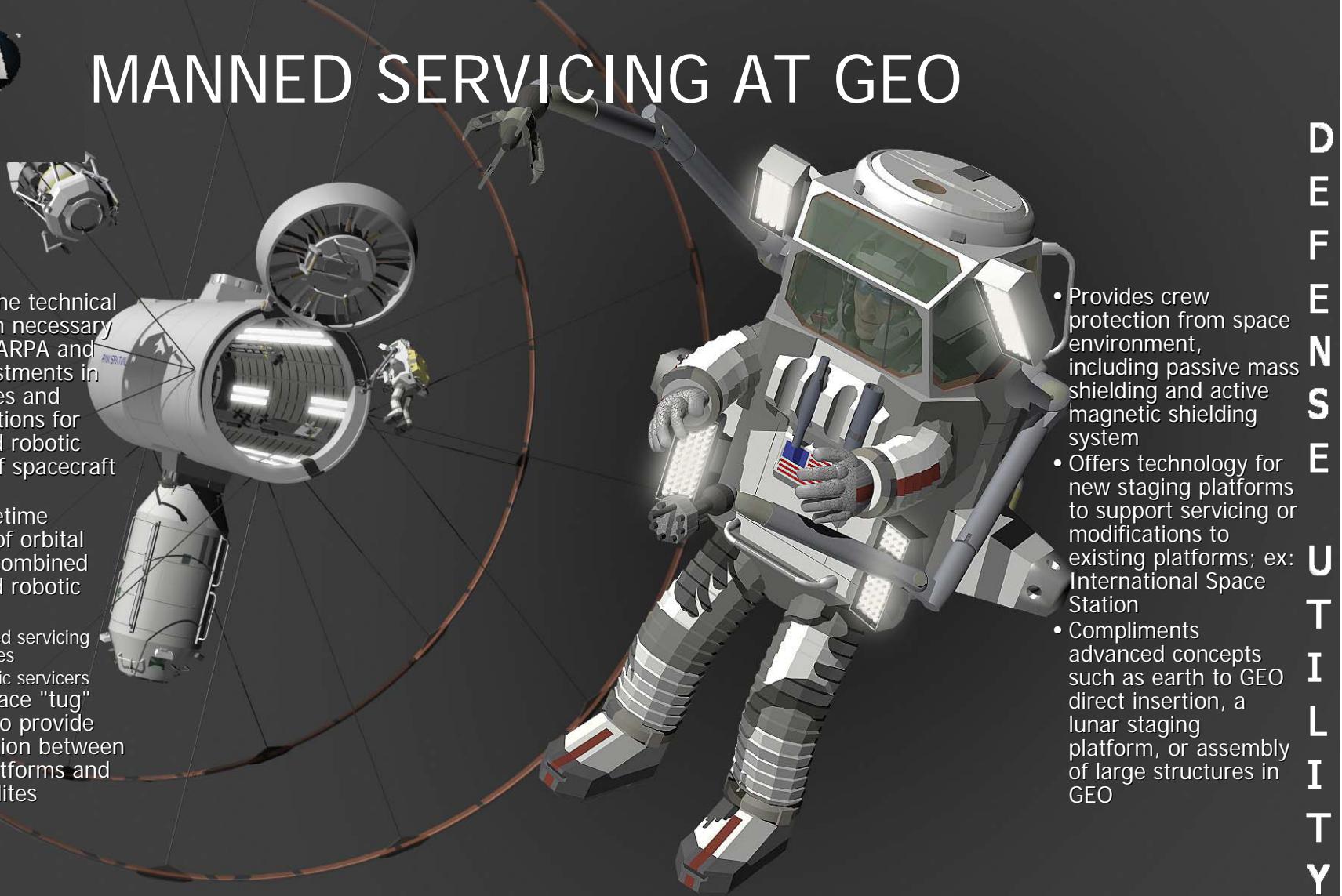


# MANNED SERVICING AT GEO

**D**• Generate the technical information necessary to guide DARPA and NASA investments in technologies and demonstrations for human and robotic servicing of spacecraft in GEO  
**E**• Enables lifetime extension of orbital assets by combined human and robotic workforce

- Crewed servicing vehicles
- Robotic servicers

**I**• Enables space "tug" capability to provide transportation between staging platforms and client satellites  
**P**  
**T**  
**I**  
**O**  
**N**



**D**  
**E**  
**F**  
**E**  
**S**  
**E**  
**U**  
**T**  
**I**  
**L**  
**I**  
**T**  
**Y**

- Provides crew protection from space environment, including passive mass shielding and active magnetic shielding system
- Offers technology for new staging platforms to support servicing or modifications to existing platforms; ex: International Space Station
- Compliments advanced concepts such as earth to GEO direct insertion, a lunar staging platform, or assembly of large structures in GEO

## • 6 month study with NASA

- To investigate the feasibility, risks and technologies that would have to be matured and demonstrated for human and robotic servicing of spacecraft in geostationary earth orbit (GEO)
- Met with NASA CTO Bobby Braun, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, and NASA ARC Director Pete Worden

## • FY 2010 Plans:

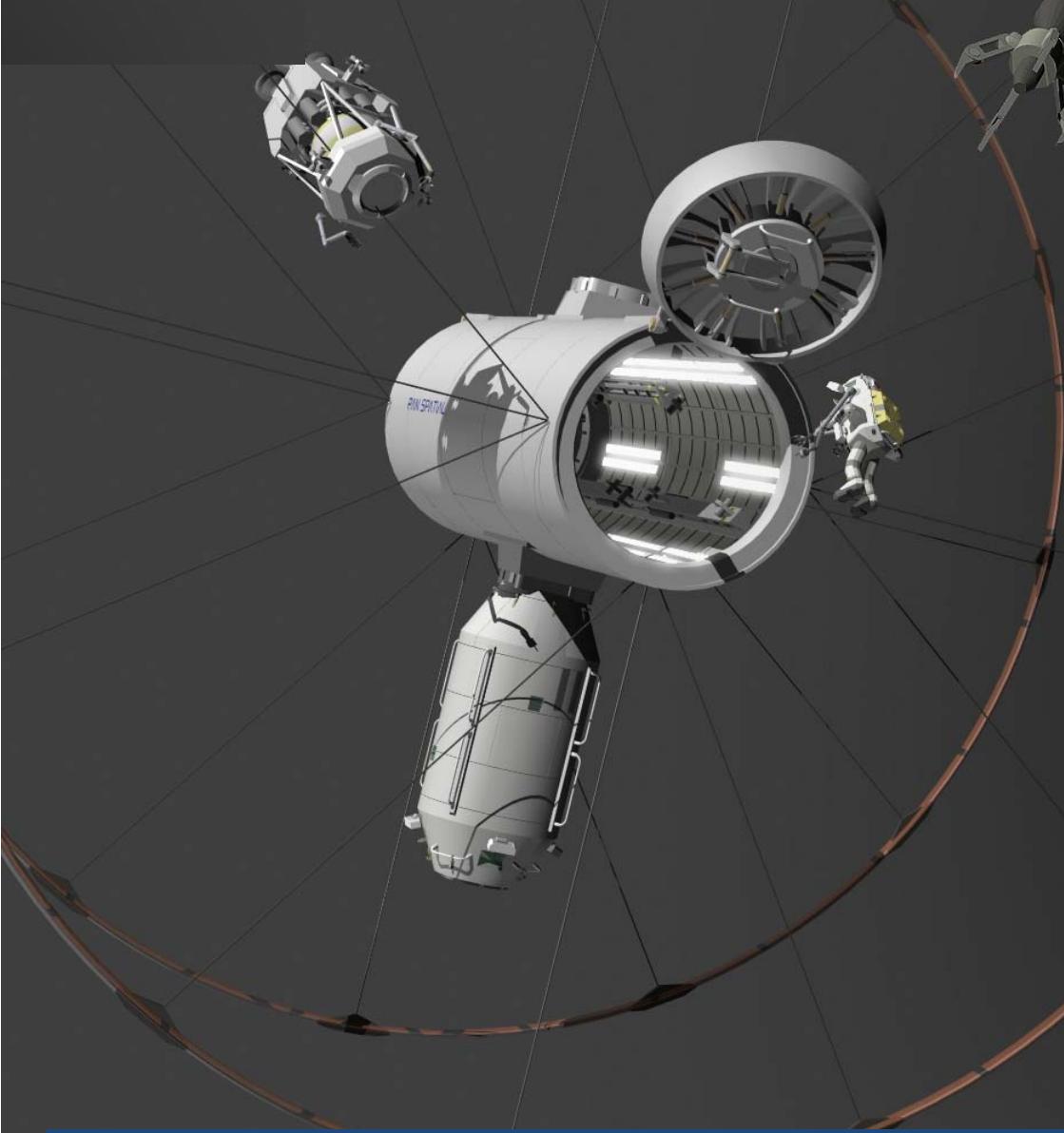
- Developed study plan and survey existing relevant work - JUN 2010
- Select conceptual missions to be developed into point of departure mission studies in next phase of study - SEPT 2010

## • FY 2011 Plans:

- Organize and stand up integrated human mission design lab for phase III work with multiple NASA Center participation - OCT 2010
- Create preliminary development plans for each mission, identifying dependencies of other development activities - NOV 2010



# SDA FOR GEO SERVICING



Robust space domain awareness needed for mission planning

- Precise track of uncontrolled objects
- Object orientation
- Complete knowledge of debris
- Images of object
- Determination of type of repair
- Continuous monitoring during repair

*Requires an extensive sensor suite powered by data analysis*



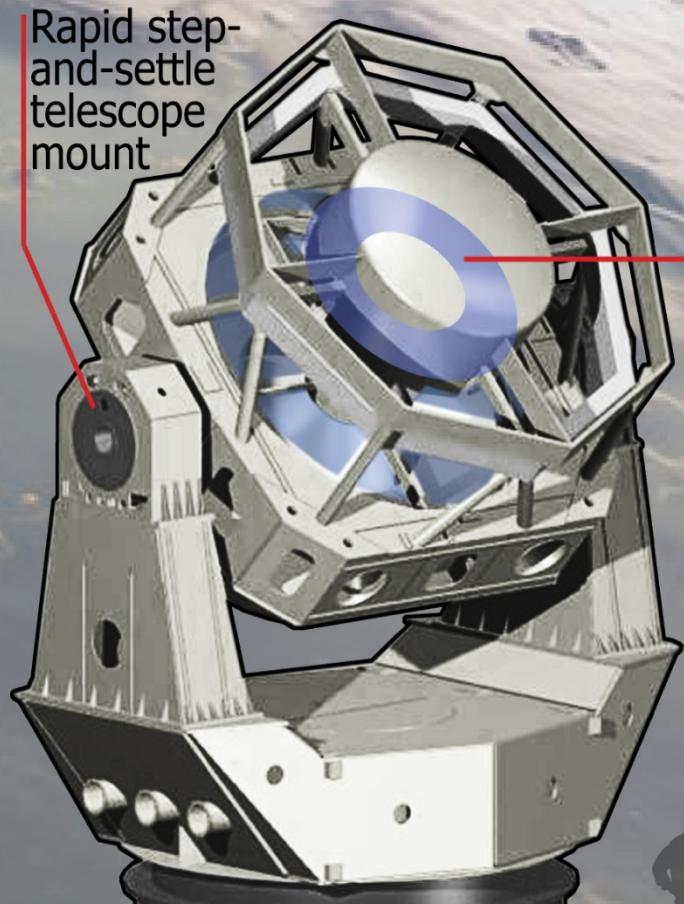
# SSA Sensors

Distribution Statement "A" (Approved for Public Release, Distribution Unlimited). DISTAR case 16237.

# SST

## SPACE SURVEILLANCE TELESCOPE

SST will provide over an order of magnitude improvement in search rate and sensitivity, compared to existing Ground-based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance GOEDSS



Autonomous, rapid uncued search, detection, and tracking of dim objects ( $>18$  Mv) in deep space



Background earth image ISS020EO47807 courtesy NASA-JSC Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth; <http://earth.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop>



# Intensity Correlation Imagery for Imaging of Geostationary Objects (ICI)

## Description

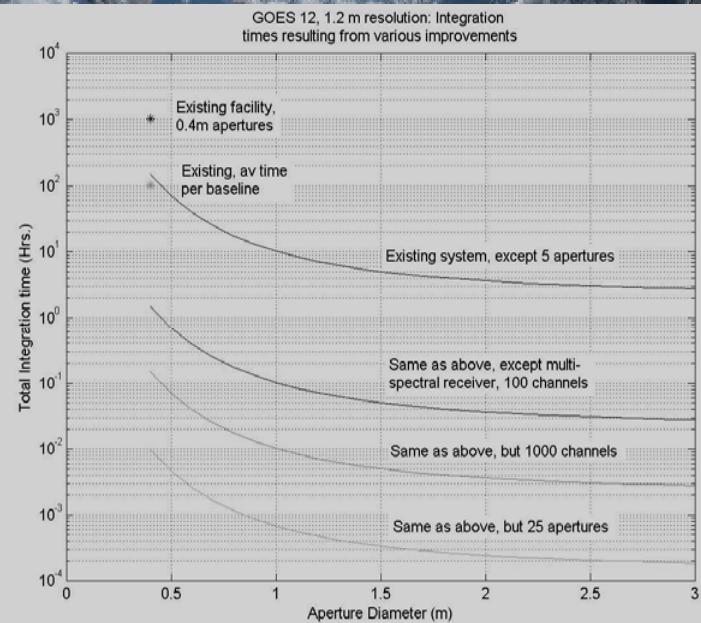
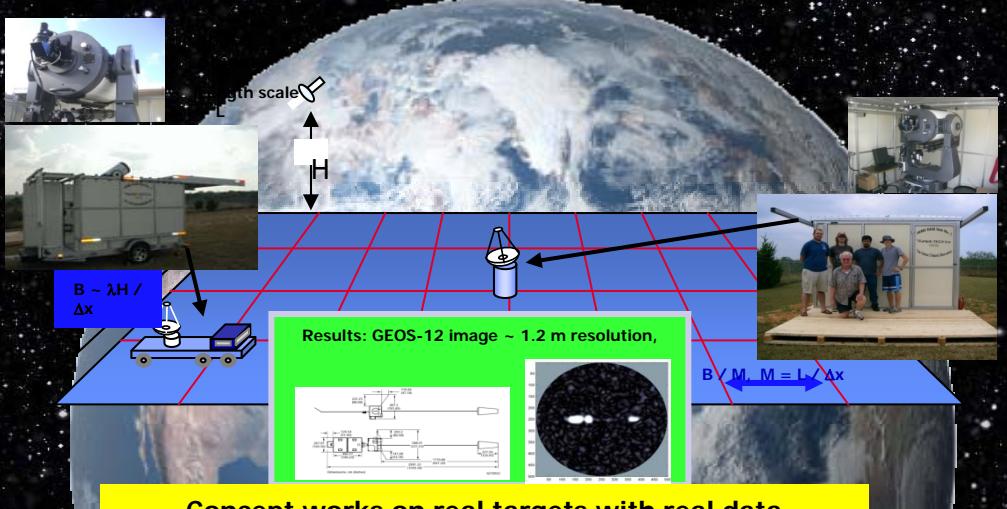
- Use low-quality (non-imaging) apertures to collect intensity measurements at various baselines
- Correlate simultaneous intensity fluctuations between two or more apertures
- Use phase retrieval algorithms along with a priori information (i.e. black background) to extract phase information from the mutual coherence function and recreate an image in post processing

## Defense Utility

- High resolution imaging of resident space objects (RSO) in GEO to:
- Characterize RSO attributes and capabilities
- Identify operational attributes and nominal behaviors
- Identify and analyze changes in physical attributes, operational behavior or perceived control
- Establish and maintain object identity, ownership and control

## Program Status

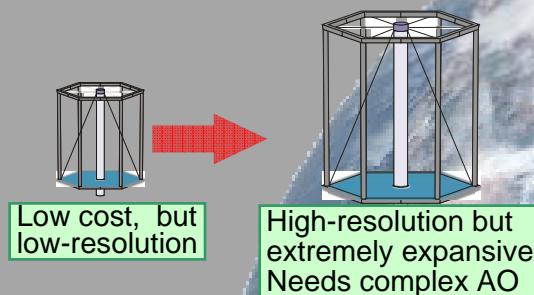
- Study: 9 month effort which ends in FY2011
- FY 2010 Plans:
  - Initial investigation into ranging requirements for inverse polarimetric synthetic aperture LADAR
  - Object radiometry
  - Multi-spectral ICI detector
  - SNR and detector options
  - Long baseline experiments
- FY 2011 Plans:
  - Phase retrieval





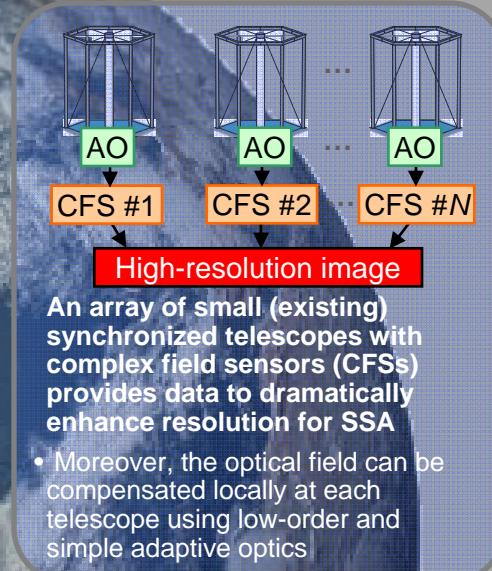
# High-Resolution Imaging with Sparse Array of Low-Resolution Adaptive Telescopes for Space Surveillance Applications - SSA

## STATUS QUO



*Increasing resolution of space objects/ debris imaging for SSA requires building giant and extremely expensive systems.*

- Adaptive optics (AO) complexity and cost increase quadratically with size



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENT:

High-resolution imaging system providing an image quality superior to that of any of the telescopes in the array with no need to build new systems

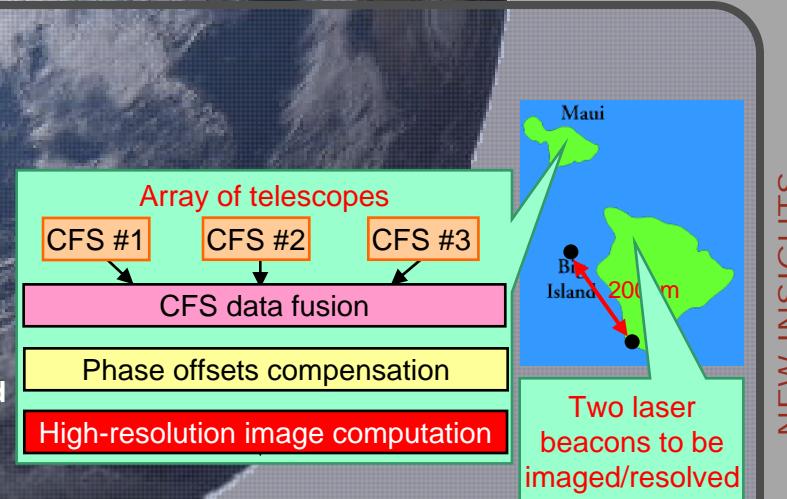
## HOW IT WORKS:

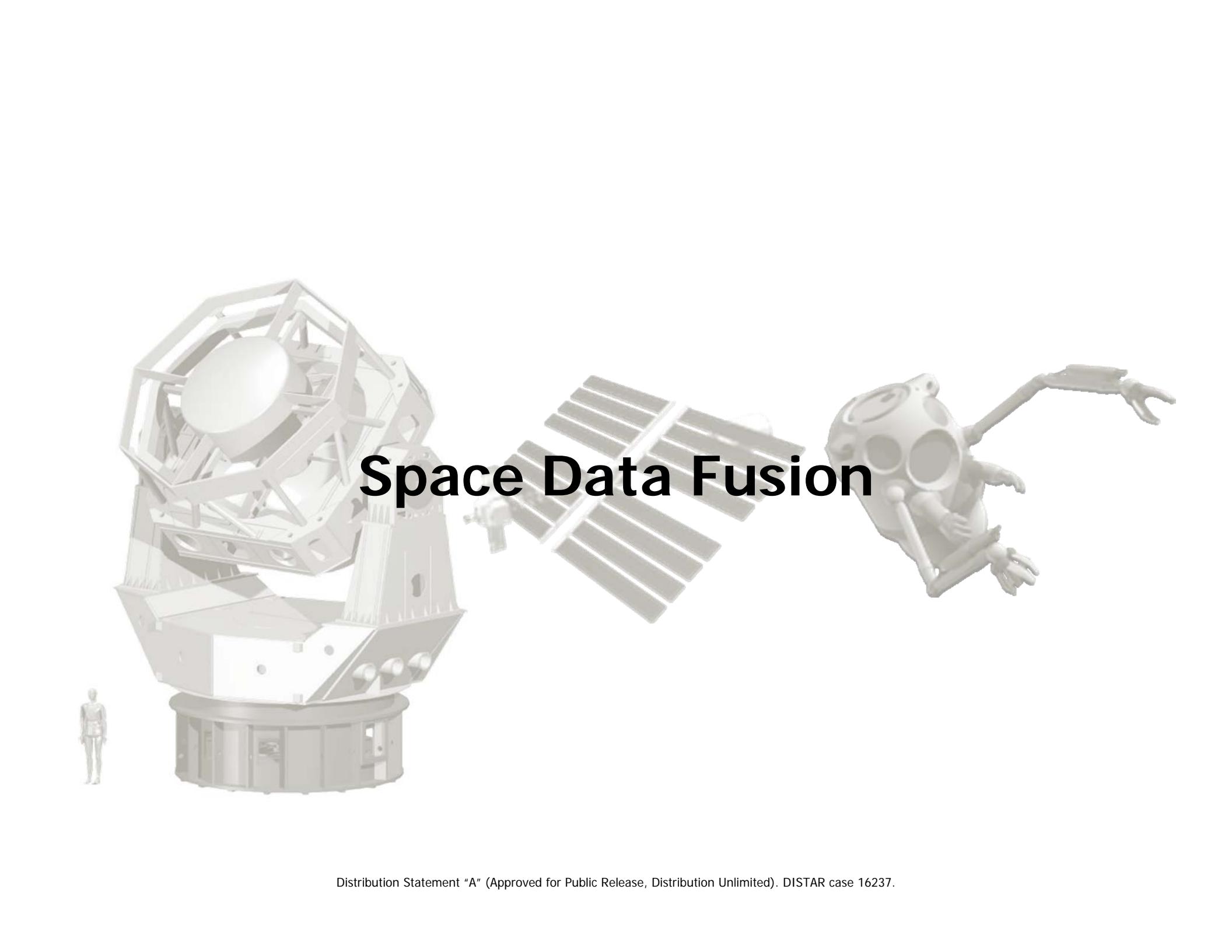
### Major operational steps:

1. Time-synchronized measurements of complex fields from each telescope are sent to a central digital processing unit (CDPU)
2. All local measurements are fused into a large-scale digital complex field
3. Piston-phase differences (offsets) between telescopes are compensated digitally, a step called *phase-locking* (PL)
4. Finally, a high-resolution image is computed digitally from the large-scale complex-field

## ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

- Object of interest should be isoplanatic





# Space Data Fusion

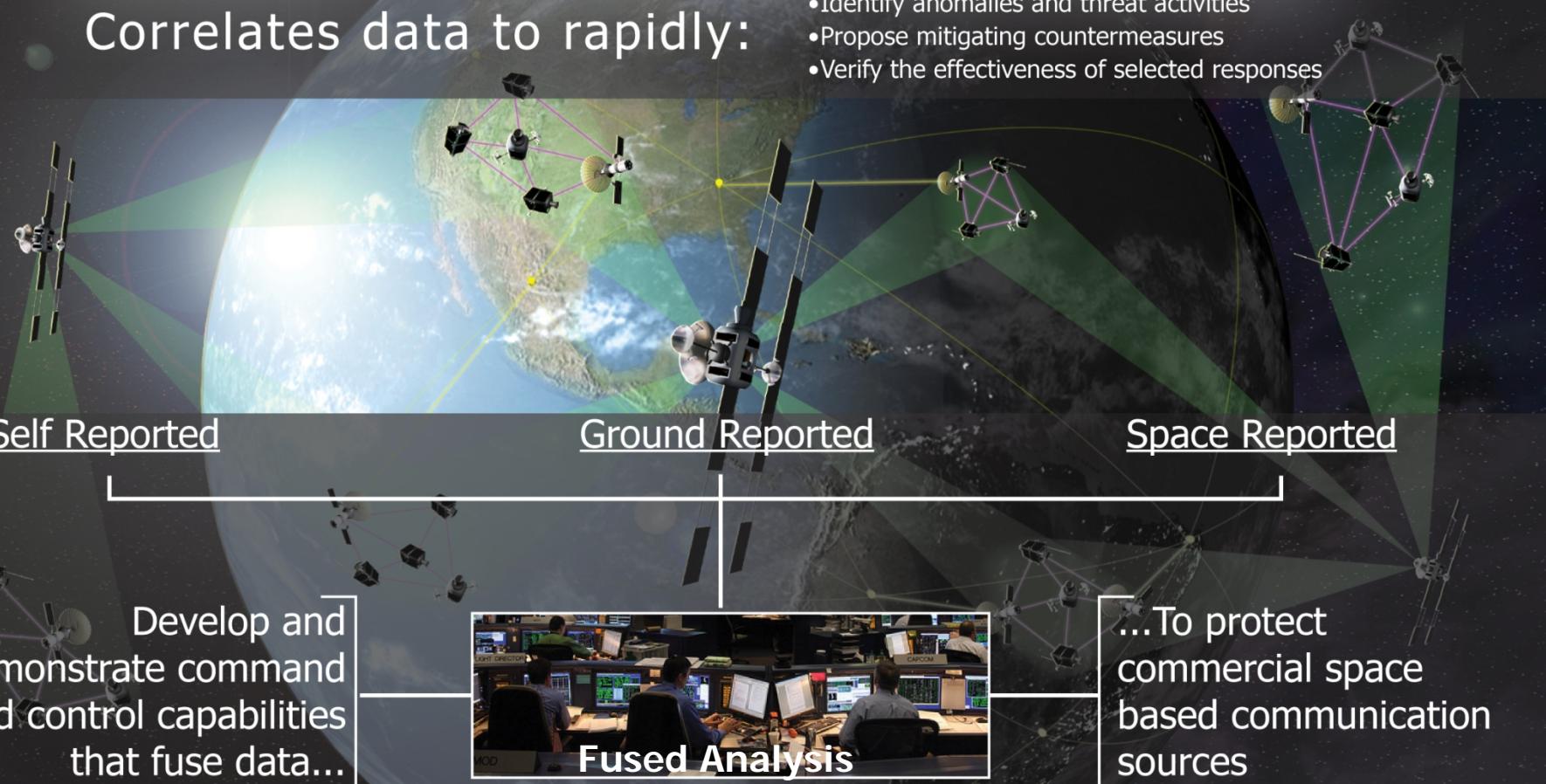


# SSA

## SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS DATA FUSION

Correlates data to rapidly:

- Identify anomalies and threat activities
- Propose mitigating countermeasures
- Verify the effectiveness of selected responses





# SSA DATA FUSION





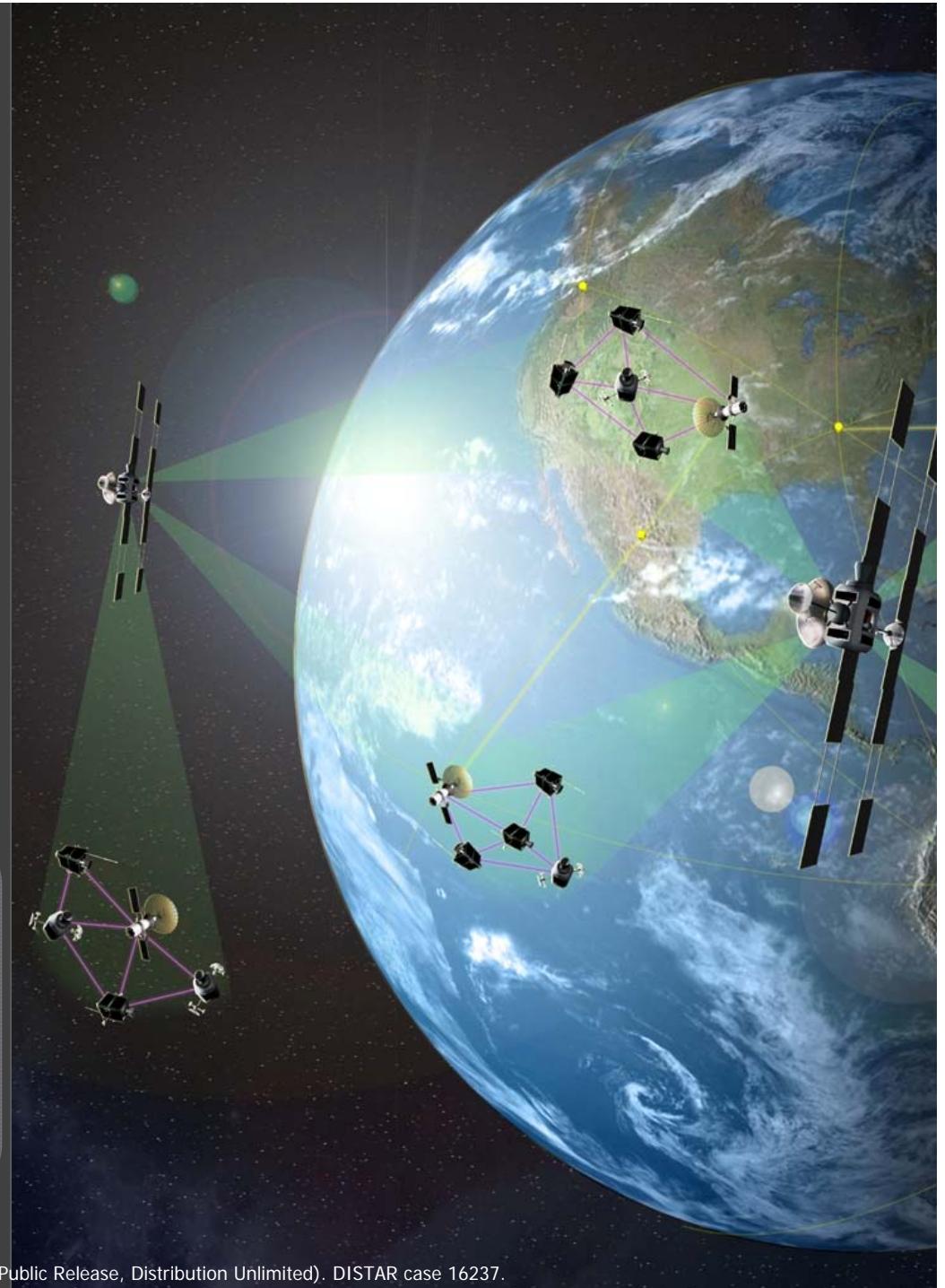
## FUTURE DIRECTION

Complete SST  
Demonstration

Begin Ground-based  
GEO imaging program

Develop data fusion tools:

- Rapid track and catalogue of break-ups
- Dynamic sensor tasking/data analysis
- Non-imaging characterization





[www.darpa.mil](http://www.darpa.mil)